

CLAIMS

1. A method of retrieving location-related information using a mobile device having both
5 wide-area and short-range communication sub-systems, the method involving:
 - obtaining a locality indicator using the wide-area communication sub-system;
 - obtaining local information using the short-range communication sub-system;
 - using the locality indicator and local information in combination to retrieve specific
10 information having a relation to the current location of the mobile device.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said local information is information about a
local business or landmark.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said local information is an identifier of a
15 short-range transmitter the transmissions of which are received by the mobile device.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of using the local information and
locality indicator to retrieve said specific information is effected by searching for a match
20 in a database in which local information entries are tagged with respective locality
indicators indicative of the locality associated with the local information of the entry
concerned.
5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the database is held remotely, the mobile
device using the wide-area communication sub-system to pass the local information and
25 locality indicator to a service system which then accesses the database to retrieve said
specific information and return it to the device using the wide-area communication sub-
system of the latter.
6. A method according to claim 5, wherein the database entries are distributed across
30 multiple database servers on the basis of their respective locality indicators, the appropriate
server being accessed by the service system according to the locality indicator received
from the mobile device.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein said specific information is location.
8. A method according to claim 1, wherein said specific information is information about
5 the source that transmitted the local information to the mobile device.
9. A method according to claim 1, wherein said specific information is supplemental information about the same topic as said local information.
- 10 10. A method according to claim 1, wherein the wide-area communication sub-system comprises a cellular radio sub-system.
11. A method according to claim 10, wherein said locality indicator comprises an identifier of the current cell in which the mobile device is camped.
- 15 12. A method according to claim 1, wherein the wide-area communication sub-system comprises a GPS receiving system, the locality indicator being an approximate location reading.
- 20 13. A method according to claim 1, wherein the short-range communication sub-system is a short-range radio transceiver.
14. A method according to claim 1, wherein the short-range communication sub-system is an infra-red based system.
- 25 15. A method according to claim 1, wherein the obtained locality indicator and local information are stored in the mobile device and subsequently used to retrieve said specific information at a time convenient to the user.
- 30 16. A mobile device comprising:
- a wide-area communication sub-system;

- a first data-capture arrangement for capturing a locality indicator using the wide-area communication sub-system;
- a short-range communication sub-system;
- a second data-capture arrangement for capturing local information using the short-range communication sub-system; and
- an information-retrieval arrangement for using the captured locality indicator and local information in combination to retrieve specific information having a relation to the current location of the mobile device.

10 17. A device according to claim 16, wherein the second data-capture arrangement is operative to capture, as said local information, an identifier of a short-range transmitter the transmissions of which are received by the short-range communications sub-system.

15 18. A device according to claim 16, wherein the retrieval arrangement is operative to use the wide-area communication sub-system to pass the local information and locality indicator to a service system and to receive back said specific information from the service system.

20 19. A device according to claim 16, wherein the wide-area communication sub-system comprises a cellular radio sub-system.

20. A device according to claim 16, wherein the short-range communication sub-system is a short-range radio transceiver.

25 21. A device according to claim 16, wherein the captured locality indicator and local information are stored in the mobile device and subsequently used by the retrieval arrangement to retrieve said specific information at a time convenient to the user.

30 22. A method of providing an information service in which items of information derived from short-range wireless transmitters are stored together with respective locality indicators each indicating the locality of the transmitter from where the corresponding item

of information was derived.

23. A method according to claim 22, wherein said locality indicator is a location area or cell identifier for a mobile radio cell in which the corresponding transmitter is located.

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24. A service system comprising:

- a database in which items of local information derived from short-range wireless transmitters are stored together with respective further information and respective locality indicators each indicating the locality of the transmitter from where the corresponding item of information was derived;
- a communications interface for interfacing the service system with a communications infrastructure; and
- a request handler for receiving a request via the communications interface for specific information having a relation to a location indicated by a locality indicator and local information included in the request, the request handler being operative to use said locality indicator and local information included in the request to find a match in the database and to return from the said further information associated with the match, the requested specific information.

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25. A service system according to claim 24, wherein said locality indicators are location area or cell identifiers for a mobile radio cell.

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26. A service system according to claim 24, wherein said items of local information are identifiers of the respective related said short-range transmitters.

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